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come about to the middle of the thighs in length and have no buttons, being put on over the head like a sweater. Their trousers are made of skins of various animals, and their footwear is buckskin moccasins, which reach about half way to the knees. Their headdress consists of a fur cap. This costume is worn at all seasons of the year, it being in July that I saw them thus clad.

They are very careless as to the disposal of garbage and bodily excretions, these usually being deposited in the most convenient place, regardless of proximity to their huts.

Their habits and occupations can be considered together, as one depends upon the other to a large extent. The Bristol Bay section has a large number of salmon canneries in operation during the summer months. The influence of the employees on the natives is very demoralizing. Many of them bring liquor to Alaska and sell it to the natives. They are also a great factor in introducing and spreading venereal disease.

The natives work in the canneries during the season when they are in operation, but seldom draw any of their pay in money, as they get groceries and other things from the cannery company's store in exchange for their wages. Some of the native women weave baskets which are also traded for goods at the stores. What furs the natives have for sale are usually disposed of in the same manner, so they seldom have any money.

When the supply of liquor is gone they make large quantities of "hootchinoo" and indulge in drunken orgies, many of which, especially in cold weather, are followed by death, resulting either from disease due to exposure or to actually freezing to death.

Education is slow and discouraging in this locality. The rôle of the teacher here is more that of an advocate of law and order than that of an instructor.

Under such conditions good health of the natives is impossible. The prevailing diseases are tuberculosis, trachoma, and venereal diseases.

These are the general sanitary conditions that I have observed among the Alaskan natives. The white population is exceptionally healthy.

Should any of the acute infectious diseases, such as smallpox, cholera, plague, typhoid fever, or scarlet fever, gain a foothold among the native population, I doubt if its spread could be checked before a whole village became depopulated. It would also place the health of the white population in jeopardy, as the tendency of the natives under such conditions would be to flee from the infected places, and in so doing they would scatter the infection to several other villages.

There have been epidemics of measles, each having a frightful mortality. One occurred at Tatitilek, on Prince William Sound, in July, 1910. Dr. Romig informed me that when measles was epidemic at Bethel, Alaska, a few years ago there were not enough men able to be about to bury the dead. If measles can cause such conditions, the appearance of any of the above-mentioned diseases in epidemic form would give a gloomy outlook, indeed. The only hope of limiting the disease would be to keep it confined to the village in which it appeared, which might be successfully done by reason of the long distance between villages.

The laws of Alaska are lacking in provisions that aim to improve the public health. In cities and incorporated towns the city authorities look after such matters as well as they can. They have no city health department, but the local physicians frequently bring conditions affecting the health of the city to the attention of the mayor, who usually considers the physicians' recommendations favorably.

A NOTE REGARDING THE PHOTODYNAMIC ACTION OF CORN WITH REFERENCE TO PELLAGRA.[1]

By C. H. Lavinder, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

In a recent review (Public Health Reports, Feb. 24, 1911, p. 199) there were given at some length the work and opinions of various authors on the photodynamic effects of certain constituents of corn, and the possible relation of such action to the etiology of pellagra.

Three writers claimed that by feeding light-colored animals on a corn diet and at the same time exposing them to diffused sunlight there occurred in a variable period of time (from 8 days to 4 weeks or more) certain distinctive symptoms, the most notable of which was falling of the hair.

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[1] From the Hygienic Laboratory.

For the purpose of confirming these observations certain experiments were begun February 24 and terminated April 27, 1911.

Cages containing (1) 2 white rabbits and 1 dark one, (2) 4 white guinea pigs and 2 dark ones, (3) 6 white mice, and (4) 4 white rats were placed in diffused sunlight and the animals fed upon a diet of corn and green food (cabbage, etc.) in approximately a proportion of 4 of the former to 1 of the latter. Control cages on a mixed diet were placed along with the others. All animals received water freely. An exactly similar series of animals on the same diet were placed in almost absolute darkness.

The corn used in feeding the animals was yellow corn of fairly good quality, and showed no marked evidence of spoiling (acidity 23).

For the first few days it was given uncooked; later it was cooked into cakes, and this the animals seemed to prefer. It was noted that unless great care was used in storing it the corn readily became moldy.

Along with the other animals in diffused daylight was placed a cage containing 3 pigeons, 2 dark colored and 1 white spotted. These were fed on an exclusive diet of corn which showed marked evidences of spoiling (acidity 54). They were, of course, given water.

Generally speaking, the results of these experiments were entirely negative. There were several accidental deaths among the animals, but none displayed any such symptomatology as has been described by the writers referred to. All of the animals, except the mice, did very well on the corn and green food diet, but did not gain as much in weight as did the control animals. A number of the mice died both in the control and in the other cages, but without displaying any characteristic phenomena. They were all young mice and did not thrive in any of the cages.

The pigeons on spoiled corn were full grown and showed no gain in weight. They remained well.

No differences of consequence were noted between the animals kept in the dark and those exposed to the light.